

"The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today."

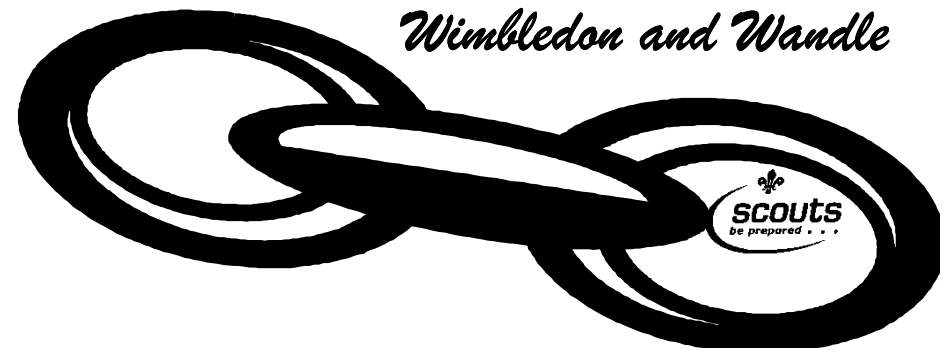
H Jackson Brown

Copy date for December/January Links:
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Wimbledon and Wandle

Links

November 2015 – Issue no. 117

Nov 7	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
8	Remembrance Day Parade	Wimbledon/Mitcham
11	Cub Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
14	SAS Quiz Night	1 st Lower Morden HQ at 7.30pm
15	Scout Incident Hike	Boidierhurst
16	SLs' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
21	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
22	Cubs Scooter Rally	
25	Beaver Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
Dec 1	SAS Reindeer Drive	Morden Hall DHQ 7.30pm
2	District Executive meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
5	District Store	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
Jan 7	Scout Leaders' Christmas meal	Park Place
13	Cub Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
14	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 7.45pm
16	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
23	Scouts/Explorers Paintball	Cobham

Many congratulations to

Prajesh Vartham and Rory Payn, both of the 2nd Morden Scout Group, who came 1st and 3rd in the 'Design a County Badge' competition.

In due course we will all be wearing Prajesh's design. Well done to them both.

is one of the most important parades of the year. We need a fantastic turnout in 100% perfect uniform.

January 2016:

Sat 23rd: Paintball day joint activity with the Scout Troops. Cost £30. All details have been emailed around. Please contact Dave Bixby or myself for any further information.

Scout Active Support – Linda Vaudrey

What an enjoyable time we had at the Croydon Stagers Music Hall on Thursday, 29th October! Not laughed so much for ages!



Reminder – Remembrance Day Parades will be held in both the Wimbledon and Mitcham areas.

Our **Quiz Night**, devised again by Maggie Pooley, will be held on Saturday 14th November 2015, at 7.30 p.m., at the 1st Lower Morden H.Q. The cost will be £5 per head (please bring your own liquid refreshment). Let Robert know, a.s.a.p. if you would like to attend – brumwells@btinternet.com or phone 020 8330 7466. Please bring friends or family with you to make up teams of 6 or just come on your own. We shall be pleased to see you.

We are holding a festive **Reindeer Drive** on Tuesday 1st December – 7.30p.m. – at Morden Hall Park H.Q. – mince pies, mulled wine etc. will be provided. £2 a head – names to Jean Gould please.

If anyone can help at the Carol Concert, St John's High Path, on 12 December please contact Brian. The times of the performances are 2.00 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.

Forthcoming event – New Year Meal – Saturday 23rd January 2016 – venue to be confirmed. If you are interested in going please let Jean or David know.

Our very best wishes go to Bill Cronk, who is poorly at the moment.

District Commissioner

Following on from last month's Links and the focus that we need to maintain on raising numbers, be it in our Section or Group, it is encouraging to know that a recent mini census across the District showed that we are in a position to reasonably expect a growth in our numbers come January. This is further evidence, if evidence were needed, that Scouters in our District work hard to provide the best Scouting experience that they can, week in and week out. Everyone deserves a hearty pat on the back for this great effort.

At the January census the fact that adults will be counted (*but not charged*) will help and the fact that every extra youth member over and above last January's census will be paid for out of District reserves will not be drain on Group resources. Not only that, but this will make it easier for growing Groups to budget, as each Group will know what its payable census numbers are for the following January.

By keeping the pressure on for #JustOneMore throughout November there is every reason to believe that we will play our full part in meeting the Movement's target of 500,000 youth members by 2018.

The Swimming Gala is a good example of dedicated leaders coming together to deliver a quality event that everyone obviously enjoys attending. As ever, our grateful thanks to Michèle McNamara for all the hours of work she puts in to ensure that the Gala happens every year and to her hyper efficient team of adults on the night itself.

With November comes Remembrance Sunday and I trust that every effort will be made to ensure that Scouts of every age have the opportunity to reflect upon the sacrifices that have been made and continue to be made by our sailors, soldiers and airmen. If at all possible, members should attend one of the two available parades (in Mitcham and Wimbledon); details have already been circulated to Key Managers. It is worth remembering, especially on this occasion, that both the standard of our uniform and the standard of our behaviour are tangible demonstrations of our respect for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Joe

Chairman's Chatter – Andy Edmonds

It was pleasing to note, from the recent Mini Census, a further increase in our Youth Membership; keep up the good work! If continued, this will represent an increase of nearly 13% over the period since January.

You should be aware by now, that District has agreed to pay for any increase in your total Group Youth Members since last Census. I currently calculate this support to growing Groups at around £4500. When added to the £6000 not be taken by County this year; these sums should represent a considerable boost to Group finances next year, when compared to this

As to future years, and in an effort to make sure that growing Groups are not financially penalised, District will continue to pay for any increase in Youth Members when comparing Census numbers from current year to previous year. This means when you know your numbers for the coming Census, you know what numbers you will be paying for in 2017.

To be clear, we will not pay if individual Section numbers increase but total Group numbers decrease. For future years, we will reset the base numbers to the then most recent Census.

To summarise, if your Group's overall Youth Members have increased at Census in January 2016, you will only be billed for your Youth Membership as it stood in January 2015 at £27.00 per head. You will not be billed for anyone not listed as a Beaver, Cub, Scout or Explorer.

On the subject of finance, the Executive will at its next meeting be reviewing how budget holders have spent their budgets under the District Development Plan this year and what value has been achieved? This information will form part of our planning process, when agreeing allocations for 2016.

Alan Green and his small team of helpers continue to make much needed repairs and improvements to Morden Hall DHQ and he too is preparing another 3 Year Plan.

The Bridge Club has not exercised the Break Clause in its 20 year Lease. Therefore, we are able to plan for their continued occupation until its expiry in March 2026.

The Rental Agreement for the flat expires in December and after being told of our expectations for a substantial market based rent increase, the tenant has advised that he will be vacating. We will be taking professional advice as to

For those not interested in training, Teen Marine can arrange for a qualified helm to take your members out on the Solent.

If you intend to use **Jack Petchey** award money to pay for a trip, tell them when booking and you may get a special deal.

Paintball 2016

Details for January's paintball day have been circulated and, although it seems a long time away, it's essential that any Troop or Unit intending to attend gets their signed declaration form and deposits to me by the 4 Dec 2015 at the very latest.

Please note that the £10 deposit is non-returnable due to the number of Scouts, Explorers and Leaders who decide at the last minute that they have a more attractive offer on the day.

Cheques should be made payable to "Wimbledon and Wandle Dist. Scouts". Payment by bank transfer is also possible, just contact me for the account details but remember that the closing date deadline still applies.

Wellington Boots

I still have a few pairs of nearly new wellington boots if anyone could use a pair.

Sizes still available are:-

3, 4, 6, 7, 8 with steel toe caps
9

Any left at the end of December will be disposed of.

Red Book 2016

At the time writing next year's Red Book is with the printers and should be ready for our next Scout Section meeting at the Morden Hall DHQ on Monday 16th November at 8.00 pm.

Explorers – Neil McLaughlan

We had a very good leaders meeting on Tues 20th with lots of ideas and suggestions for future activities and events. I am away for half-term and will circulate the minutes and calendar for next year in early November.

A few reminders below:

November 2015:

Sun 8th: Remembrance Day Parades. All details have been emailed around.

Please let me know if you need any further information. Don't forget that this



Section Reports

Beavers – John Tweedley

The next event in our Beaver calendar is the Section Leaders' meeting on 25 November. Please try very hard to send someone along to represent your Colony and I'll see you there.



Cubs – Michèle McNamara

Scout-a-thon, this is due to take place on Saturday November 21st from 15.00 – 17.00. Races will be from 15.30 – 16.30 and presentations will be made after that. All entries should be with Louise Preedy by November 6th.



Venue Pulse Health & Fitness (Carshalton College), Nightingale Rd, Carshalton, SM5 2EJ.

CSL Meeting – The next CSL Meeting is November 11th, we need to discuss the proposed badge day in January at this meeting (Astronomers Badge), if you are unable to attend the meeting but will be able to help on the day itself (January 31st) can you please let me know what base you would be able to run. We also need at the January CSL meeting a rough idea of how many cubs we are expecting to attend.

Scouts – Dave Bixby

Quiz night: Another successful quiz night thanks to Tim Kerridge and the hospitality of the 22nd Wimbledon. My thanks also go to David Williams and Richard Frewin for question master and marking duties.



It was interesting to note that, although the same number of Troops took part, the number of actual number of Scouts attending was down on last year. We have booked a date for next year, which is due to be at the 1st Lower Morden H.Q., do we need review its place in the calendar? Congratulations to the 13th Wimbledon for taking top honours.

Power Boat Course

Congratulations to the 3 Leaders from the 6/12th Mitcham who became the first from our District to obtain their RYA Level 2 Powerboat certificate on a course run by Teen Marine in their RIB Hot Fuzz.

If you already have a powerboat certificate for non-tidal waters, Teen Marine can provide training so that you can upgrade to coastal waters and then you would be able to take out Hot Fuzz.

the level of rental we should seek for the next 12 months. We will also take advice as to the value of possible improvements to the property. To this end, if anyone can vouch for a builder and that builder could be looking for a couple of weeks work indoors during January, please let me know.

County is looking for representation from each District on a new Committee to be formed to implement the County Development Plan. Chairman has been appointed and the ACC (Development) will join what should be 4 or 5 meetings a year. This is a chance to shape support across the 5 Boroughs, decide "What success looks like?" and to make sure County's focus compliments our own. If this sounds like something you might want to take on, please get in touch for an informal discussion.

Finally, I should report that Peter Newman will be standing down as Chairman of the Appointments Committee and the Executive has appointed Jean Gould as his replacement. Thank you to Jean for agreeing to take on this key role.

I am sure that more will be said at the District AGM, but I struggle to measure the value of support that Peter has brought to this role over many decades. In fact, I am sure as an 18 year old in 1980, I recall him interviewing me for my first ASL warrant in what would then have been Mitcham District.

On the subject of the District AGM, this is now confirmed as Wednesday 4th May and we are delighted that 19th Wimbledon has agreed again to host.

Andy

1000 Fantastic Scout Games

You can never have too many games in your arsenal! To this end John Hemming-Clark has compiled the above book and is emailing out one a day - free - to anyone who's interested. Email him Searchpublishing@aol.com and he'll put you on the list. (You can unsubscribe at any time).

For Facebook users he's also putting them on <https://www.facebook.com/1000FantasticScoutGames> at the rate of one a day.

Appointments – Muriel Treagust

The Appointments' Advisory Committee have as from earlier this month had a change - Mr. Peter Newman has stepped down as Chairman but has agreed to stay on as a member of the Committee. Peter has held Chairmanship for many years and his experience will be gratefully "used" by our new Chairman, Mrs. Jean Gould. We say a grateful thank you to Peter for his many years of guidance. We look forward to working with Jean, and thank her for taking on this important role for Wimbledon and Wandle.

Over the past 6 weeks the following have attended interview:-

Martin Harman	ASL	8th Morden
Luke Higgins	ACSL	5th Morden
Martin Morgan	SL	3rd Mitcham
Tyrell Marston	ASL	11th Mitcham
Cameron Moore	ASL	22nd Wimbledon

Our thanks to them for the commitment they are taking on.

Store

The Store will be closed on 17, 24 and 31 December and 7 January for the Christmas holidays.

Books available from the Store:

Games In, Out and Roundabout	£3.20
A pocketful of programmes for young people	£3.20
Panic ideas 100 Games for Panic Situations	£3.00
A year of Programme Planning 500 Ideas and Tips	£4.00
Really Wet Games	£4.00
Beaver Games	£6.00
Cub Games	£6.00
Scout Games	£6.00

Badges – Lesley Bixby

Cub Scouters: don't forget to order your Centenary badges – I will not be keeping a stock but hopefully they will come in within a week.

Training

Nov 8	19	International	10.00-12.30	1LM
Nov 8	17/23	Running safe activities	13.30-16.30	1LM
Nov 29	15	Challenging behaviour	10.00-12.30	1LM
Nov 29	13/21	Growing the Movement	13.30-17.00	1LM

1LM 1st Lower Morden HQ, Bow Lane, off Lower Morden Lane SM4 4SJ

Download applications forms from the County website

www.glsWSCouts.org.uk/applicationform

or contact Mrs J Condon joan.glsWtraining@btinternet.com

NB: in future, all training modules except numbers 10 and 38 will be free of charge.

First Aid

14th November 2015

3rd Kingston HQ

6th December 2015

1st Richmond HQ

Application forms can be downloaded from the County web site

www.glsWSCouts.org.uk/support

or contact Mrs Janet Drinkall jdrinkall@sky.com

Cost for module 10 £18.00

Safeguarding Dates

19 November 2015

Bears Wood Croydon

22 November 2015

1st Whitton HQ Whitton.

Contact Alison Edwards to book a place if you missed the session held in Wimbledon and Wandle last month.